



REGIONAL NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MOUNTAIN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE
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USDA TO CONDUCT SURVEY ON CROP PRODUCTION

DENVER, CO – From May through August, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct its monthly Agricultural Yield Surveys. NASS will reach out to hundreds of producers in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming to track small grains production throughout the growing season, as well as 2015 hay stocks.

"The Agricultural Yield Survey is the primary tool used by NASS to track and report crop yield changes that may occur due to weather, pests or other factors," said Bill Meyer, Director of the NASS Mountain Regional Field Office. "By responding to this survey, farmers will provide data that allows the USDA to accurately track crop production throughout the growing season."

All sectors of the agricultural industry rely on NASS yield and production estimates to make sound business decisions. Producers use the estimates to develop marketing plans for their operations and to determine how and when to sell their crops. Agribusinesses that provide inputs and services to producers also use the estimates to develop future marketing strategies. USDA agencies use the crop yield data to determine crop insurance and disaster aid payments along with other program benefits.

The initial survey asks farmers how many acres of small grains they planted, how many acres they intend to harvest, and their expected yield per acre. In subsequent months, NASS asks the same farmers to update their expected yield per acre. This ensures the information collected captures any month-to-month changes. For their convenience, survey participants will have the option to respond by phone, online, or by mail.

"This is a great opportunity for all farmers who receive the survey to help make sure information, widely used for decision making, is timely and accurate, both locally and at the national level. This is why I hope every farmer will take the opportunity and respond to this important survey," said Meyer.

NASS will compile, analyze and publish survey results in the monthly *Crop Production* report, and publish final yield and production data in January 2017 in the *Annual Crop Production* report. These and all NASS reports are available online at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/>. For more information please contact:

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